

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, and 11 are all of the pending claims. The status identifiers have been updated.

By this amendment, dependent claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 11 remain allowable.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the “distorted S-shaped” configuration. Applicant has amended paragraph [0017] to replace “S-shaped” with “H-shaped” and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, among other things:

the distorted H-shaped configuration including a cross-linking portion formed at a center of each respective lug; ...

the cross-linking portion of each of the rubber lugs is disposed so as to correspond to the stepped portion.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, in the exemplary embodiment, the cross-linking portion 15a formed at a center of the lug 15 corresponds to the stepped portion 16.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 3 and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komatsu '955 in view of JP 03-19785.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the recitations of dependent claim 9 (now canceled) and to recite:

the distorted H-shaped configuration including a cross-linking portion formed at a center of each respective lug;

the cross-linking portion of each of the rubber lugs is disposed so as to correspond to the stepped portion.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no reasonable combination of the applied references that would meet all of the features of amended claim 1, including the features above. By the newly recited configuration, the outer peripheral side of the rubber elastic body makes a contribution to reinforcement and spring characteristics of the stepped portion. See paragraph [0017] of the specification.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-5 are patentable at least due to their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Date: August 19, 2011

/John M. Bird/

John M. Bird

Registration No. 46,027